

# THE Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

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## MUST FIGHT THE PESTS.

What would Hawaii be without trees? What if its forests, which beautify the land and conserve the rainfall, should all go where the splendid groves that used to cover the hills of Waimea, Hawaii, have gone? What sort of a drouthy, dusty, unhappy land should we have then? And Honolulu, which, when the missionaries came, was, owing to the lack of irrigation and the clearing off of sandalwood, one of the most forlorn places imaginable—parched, treeless, staring, flanked by a bare plain over which dust clouds blew—would it exchange its garniture of leafy beauty for the desolation of old?

This is an evil picture; perhaps one in which the possibilities are exaggerated. But the observer who reads what Mr. Leckenby and Gerrit P. Wilder have to say on the subject, will get a very lively sense of danger. We have imported pests which are killing the forest trees at the root and have freed the borers that go on with the work of destruction from the agency that kept their numbers down. Once there was a sort of native woodpecker that lived on borers. The mynah was brought in and this pugnacious bird fed on the eggs of the woodpecker and the borers grew apace. Their deadly work is now seen all through the wooded belts. Unless it can be stopped, the results are mathematical in their certainty.

It may be wise to kill off the mynah and import the common woodpecker of Canada and the states. Perhaps many other pest-destroying birds and some insects may have to be imported—swallows, robins, nighthawks, bats, dragon flies and the like. Experiments along such lines need to be made. Mr. Leckenby has a plan the cost of which he is willing to bear in part which ought to have all the encouragement it asks for. It is a scientific plan—the enclosure of an acre under wire netting in which the bug and his parasite or his feathered enemy will meet in the struggle for existence and fight it out. By studying the warfare the scientific eye can tell what birds and parasites may be safely let loose in field and forest. Why not? Could a little of the gigantic sum lately earned by the staple crops of this Territory be put to a better public use? Without the forests to promote and conserve rainfall where would the plantations be?

## DISORGANIZING VICTORY.

It is supposed elsewhere that good party managers work for a ticket that will knit factions together and make votes, not one that will widen a breach in the party ranks. A good politician is a unifier. If he knows his trade he will reject as unavailable, men whom any large number of people, otherwise willing to support the ticket, mean to vote against. Only a sense of uncomfortable power, the pledged assurance of success, can even remotely excuse their choice as candidates.

Applying all this to the local situation here is what we find: The Republican machine managers, like the Bourbons, learn nothing and, unlike them, forget much. The last county election is a blank to them. Its lessons are lost to memory. They propose, if possible, to keep the general campaign manager in power under whom the Republicans of Oahu county have lost the treasurership, the shrievalty and three supervisors and an immense voting following; and under whom the island of Hawaii has gone to the dogs politically. To make matters worse they want to keep the Murray County committee on its legs by main force and, in the convention, to jam through the Cathcart-Brown-Wise cabal against which the great independent Republican vote of the Fourth District will surely rise in revolt. How is that for political sagacity? What a cheerful prospect, in the face of an eager, and now well-organized Democracy, it raises before the Republicans.

## M'CANDLESS VS. KUHIO.

Lincoln McCandless got the Democratic nomination for Congress yesterday and now enters a campaign in which everything seems to be against him, with an evident belief in his success. He has pluck and endurance, but at this outlook there seems to be no probability of his getting nearly as many votes as McClanahan did two years ago.

The reason for this is that the combination of Kuhio and McClellan has proved to be of such value to Hawaii that very few people want a change. McClellan having consented, at the earnest request of the business men, to go back to Washington with Kuhio, that would seem, as conditions are here, to settle the matter of the election. When the enormous benefits which this Territory has derived from Congress are considered, benefits in getting which the Kuhio-McClellan teamwork was of definite value; when the unity of citizens here on the question of adding to these benefits is weighed; and when Kuhio's right to the confidence and support of his fellow Hawaiians is admitted by a majority of the native voters themselves, what chance is left for McCandless? Where is he going to look for votes? We think he will be lucky, indeed, to poll twenty-five per cent of the Hawaiian strength of his own party.

Joseph Aea sends a letter to an evening paper in terms as follows:

Dear Sir: The Advertiser of this date makes Queen Liliuokalani out as supporting Mr. John Lane for Mayor. Her Majesty wishes me to state that she has nothing to do with politics; that there is no truth in the statement, and that she has never consulted Mr. Lane or any other person, in regard to his candidacy for Mayor.

Yours truly,

JOSEPH KAPEAU AEA,

Her Majesty's Secretary.

Washington Place, Honolulu, Sept. 10, 1908.

The Advertiser made no statement of the sort mentioned, but in its local columns yesterday, quoted a current rumor as follows:

Delegate Kuhio will throw the weight of his support in the mayoralty nomination to Lane. Queen Liliuokalani, it is said, is making an active campaign for Lane. The Queen, it is said, has taken a decided stand in favor of Lane as against all other Republican aspirants.

"It is said" is not very conclusive and, in the matter of the Queen's preferences, committed her to nothing. Furthermore, the statement referred to was current, as reported, among Mr. Lane's friends. If it was not true they are to blame, not the Advertiser, which simply called attention to the prevalent gossip.

While one does not rise from Andrew D. White's chapter on Tolstoi with much respect for the great Russian as a man of practical sense, there can be no denying the value to the world of his idealism. It has set the Russian, commoner to thinking and striving; it has caused a ferment of liberal ideas in a nation which had been taught to leave everything to the "Little Father" and the Holy Synod. Perhaps a century will pass before the influences set in motion by the peasant count will do their perfect work; but all Czardom can not dispel them from men's minds.

Some weeks ago Hon. Gorham D. Gilman requested fifteen citizens of Hawaii to each send him a one-letter page opinion of what Hawaii needed most. He wanted to present the views thus expressed to the Mohonk Conference, in October. Only five responses have been made and Mr. Gilman asks for more. So much good may be done Hawaii by these utterances that compliance with his request ought not to be withheld.

Elections are decided on Oahu by independent voters. It would be well for the Republican managers, if they have any desire for success, not to fling too many dead cats in the faces of the people who hold the balance of power.

Despite the Holy Synod the St. Petersburg press celebrated Tolstoi's birthday. It looks as if there was some life left yet in the prostrate body of the revolution.

It is reaching the lie point in Illinois between Bryan and Cannon. When it comes to fervid language, however, we bet on the old man.

The more the finances of Japan are studied the less likely seems a war in the Pacific.

Ma-a-a!

## BUSY WEEK FOR THE PROMOTION COMMITTEE

Secretary Wood's weekly letter to the committee yesterday was as follows:

This week has been an unusually busy one for the office force. Besides sending out several thousand of our special mailing cards, containing Fredric Haskin's witeup of Hawaii, we mailed a large number of the Oahu folder, and also posted much other matter to addresses handed in by different parties, besides taking care of a large correspondence.

The Mark Twain mantelpiece has attracted a great many visitors during the past week, all of whom were loud in their praises of Mr. Oremba's beautiful piece of work. The mantel will be removed for packing on Monday next and will be shipped as soon as possible thereafter.

I have written to Mr. Clemens expressing the hope that, when the mantel is in place, he may have a special photograph taken for us showing him seated by his fireside.

We are informed that there is a movement on foot looking to the holding of 1910 Grand Lodge of Elks at Honolulu. We have written offering to cooperate in the way of sending our folders where requested, and will also see that our weekly news sheet is placed on file with the secretary of every Elk lodge, provided it is definitely ascertained that the movement to hold the convention here has got backing.

We learn with pleasure that the first lecture in Burton Holmes' new series of Travelogues, the season for which will open up in October, will be on "Hawaii," for which Mr. Bonine is sending his latest volcano pictures.

Hawaii will receive greater publicity from the lecture platform the coming winter than ever before. At least eight lecturers of more or less prominence are already in the field and, between them, will cover every part of the United States.

A letter from the secretary of the Industrial Club of Cheyenne, Wyoming, dated August 24, acknowledges the receipt of folders and papers, and says:

"We are glad indeed that one of your people captured the big prize here. It is the first time that Wyoming has lost the prize in these contests."

The agents of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company at Yokohama acknowledged, under date of August 29, the receipt of ten copies of our map, "The Crossroads of the Pacific," which, Mr. Howard states, he will place to the best advantage.

A party in Seattle writes for additional folders, including our pamphlet, "Agriculture in Hawaii," stating that he and seven or eight others are planning to spend the winter in Hawaii, with the object of making their homes here if it can be arranged.

## WHY TREES ARE EXPIRING.

(Continued from Page One.)

nity to show how many borers per capita he can destroy in a set period of time.

Mr. Leckenby has been experimenting for some weeks with a sulphur solution which, sprayed on trees and plants, frees them from scale. He has also prepared a mixture of sugar and poison that, left out at night, lures the Japanese beetles in swarms, proving a more tempting diet than even young plants. Leckenby believes that a saucerful left beneath a valued tree or shrub would catch most of these pests as they rise from the earth at night; at any rate, he is experimenting along these lines and believes he is traveling in the right direction.

At present Leckenby is a guest of Abe Louison on his coffee plantation on the Island of Hawaii, where they are both making a study of coffee and its possibilities in these Islands. Mr. Leckenby believing that under certain conditions and in certain localities, even on Oahu, it may become a paying crop.

During the absence of Mr. Leckenby, James P. Wilder, A. H. Ford, Allan Herbert or R. H. Trent would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in the proposition of an experimental acre under wire gauze. Mr. Leckenby is in earnest when he offers to purchase and give the land to those who will faithfully carry out the experiment.

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